

AMENDMENT***In the Specification:***

Please replace paragraphs [1137], [1170] and [1195] in the Description with the following new paragraphs [1137], [1170] and [1195]. The replacement paragraph is presented with additions underlined and deletions in ~~strike through text~~. No new matter is added by this amendment.

[1137] Figures ~~27F~~28F and ~~27G~~28G illustrate alternative embodiments of the connector. As illustrated in Figure ~~27F~~28F, in one embodiment, the connector 435''' includes a opening that is configured to removably receive the band member 415'''. As illustrated in Figure ~~27G~~28G, in another embodiment, the connector 435'''' is configured to be disposed adjacent the band member 415'''. In this embodiment, the connector 435'''' may be coupled to the band member 415'''' via a known coupling apparatus and/or method, such as an adhesive.

[1170] An embodiment of an ear portion is illustrated in Figures 51 through 57. In this embodiment, the first ear portion 2102 includes a coupling portion 2126, a first projecting portion 2128, a second projecting portion 2130, and an extension member or portion 2132. The first ear portion 2102 includes an opening 2124 that is defined by the first projecting portion 2128, the second projecting portion 2130 and the extension portion 2132. The first ear portion 2102 is curved such that the second end portion 2114 extends downwardly farther than the first end portion ~~2122~~ 2112 as illustrated in Figure 57.

[1195] In one embodiment, a substantial amount (such as 50% or more) of the first ear portion 2102 along its length L of the first ear portion 2102 is configured to flex or bend when the ear warmer 2000 is disposed on a head of a user. In particular, part or all of the projecting portions and the extension member have tapered configurations and curved profiles or configurations that allow the ear portion to flex or bend. The curved configuration of the ear portion 2102 results in the flexing of the ear portion along the length of the ear portion, thereby distributing the flexing forces along a substantial portion of the length of the ear portion. When the ear warmer 2000 is disposed on the user's head, a clamping force is applied to the user's head and the reactionary force on the ear portion 2102 is shown in Figure 56. The curvature of the ear portion 2102 alone or in combination with other features of the ear portion 2102 allow the ear portion to flex along a substantial portion of its length (such as 50% or more) when the ear warmer 2000 is disposed on a head of a user. The flexing is also enhanced by the reduced thickness of the ear portion. Thus, as pressure is applied to the ear portion, the ear portion flattens out so that an increased amount of the ear portion is proximate to and applying pressure to the user's head and more pressure is applied to the end 2114. In particular, the extension member can follow the contour of the face and bone structure of the user. The first ear portion 2102 in its flexed configuration is illustrated in Figure ~~56~~57 in dashed lines.